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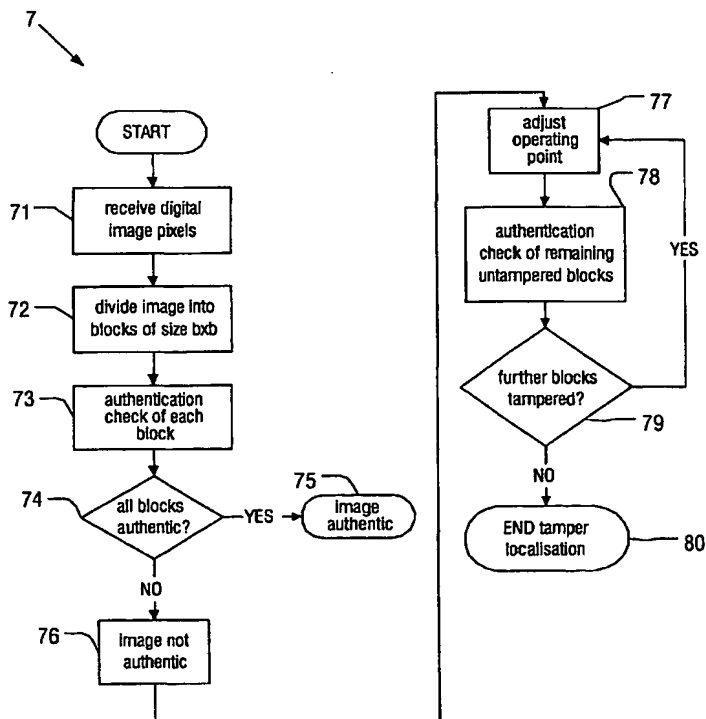
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LOCALISATION OF IMAGE TAMPERING



(57) Abstract: A method and device (8) for verifying the authenticity of media content is provided. According to an embodiment accurate tampering location for digital image authentication is provided. Typically, a suspect image is divided into blocks. For each block, an authentication bit is generated by computing a property of the image content and then thresholding said property to give a '0' or '1'. The authentication bits of the suspect image are compared with those of the original image. If there is a mismatch, and the content has indeed been tampered, tampering is detected. A mismatch due to allowable operations, such as e.g. compression, is called a false alarm, which should be avoided. A so-called ROC curve (Receiver Operating Characteristic) gives the relation between detection probability and false alarm probability. Preferably, the threshold used to determine the authentication bits represents an operation point on the ROC curve. In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, an operation point corresponding to a low false alarm probability is initially chosen. In order to more precisely identify a tampered image area, the authentication decisions are repeated for neighbouring blocks, using a different operation point. This

continues until no further tampered blocks are found. Thus improved tampering localisation is provided, being valuable e.g. to authenticate images captured by e.g. a security camera, and localise any tampered areas, whereby the value of these images is increased as e.g. evidence in a court of law.

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